



CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD BIOGRAPHIES

Thomas J. Moran, Chairman

Member since 2007

Mr. Moran is currently the owner/broker of Moran Realty, Lincoln, CA. He has been active in the real estate profession since 1977. He served as Executive Vice President for two real estate associations. He is a co-author of a real estate text book and taught real estate courses at community colleges in Santa Clara county for several years. He served 22 years in the U.S. Navy as an aviator and achieved the rank of Commander before his retirement. He served multiple tours in Vietnam. He holds a B.S. degree from the U.S. Navy Post-Graduate School and a M.S. from George Washington University.

Thomas Richards, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.), Vice Chairman

Member since 2008

Tom Richards is a retired Marine and small business owner. He enlisted in the Marines in 1967 and served as an infantry Marine in Vietnam, where he earned the Navy Cross for valor in combat and Purple Heart for his wounds, and was later commissioned, retiring as a lieutenant colonel.

Since retiring in September, he held several positions in the private sector and also is president of Caliburnus Enterprises, a small company that provides business, project management, strategic planning, leadership development, training and training management, and Internet services (web site hosting, web site development, Internet marketing, Internet connectivity, e-commerce & merchant accounts) and consulting.

Tom volunteers extensively with veterans', patriotic, and other community service organizations, including: serving as: a member of the California Veterans Board; secretary of the California State Commanders Veterans Council; a Past National Commander and current California Chapter commander of the Legion of Valor; commandant of the Bulldog Detachment 835, Marine Corps League; member board of directors of the San Diego Veterans Museum and Memorial Center; Chairperson, San Diego County United Veterans Council; member of the San Diego Navy League Marine Corps Committee; chairman of the San Diego Veterans Resource & Job Fair Committee; and mentor to the San Diego State University Student Veterans Organization. He is a life member of ten veterans organizations and an annual member of several more. He holds baccalaureate and masters' degrees in history and a masters degree in business administration. He maintains a regular physical fitness program, is both a PADI master scuba diver and divemaster, an avid skier, hiker, backpacker, and photographer. He has hiked Mt Whitney six years in a row and in 2004 summited four "fourteeners" in five days."

Vernon Chong, M.D., Major General (Ret)

Member since 2004

Dr. Chong, of Lincoln, has served as a member of the California Veterans Board since 2004. He was appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger as a member of the California Veterans Board in June 2004, January 2005, and March 2009, and was elected Chairman in 2006. Dr. Chong is a physician and surgeon and a 31-year-veteran of the U.S. Air Force, achieving the rank of Major General before his retirement in 1994. His last active duty assignment was at the Headquarters United States European Command in Stuttgart, Germany as Command Surgeon. He was the Network Director for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Integrated Service Network in Dallas, Texas from 1995-2000 in Dallas, Texas and Special Assistant a Network Director from 2000-2003.

Derek McGinnis

Member since 2010

McGinnis, of Waterford, has worked as a readjustment counselor at the Modesto Vet Center since 2009 and a military and veterans advocate, amputee program manager for the American Pain Foundation since 2008. Previously, McGinnis was a program support assistant for the California Department of Veterans Affairs from 2007 to 2008 and hospital corpsman second class from the U.S. Navy from 1996 to 2007. He is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Team Semper Fi and Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Donna L. Dacier

Member since 2010

MG Donna Dacier, US Army (Ret), brings over 34 years of experience as an Army communications officer and senior leader. She has provided executive leadership of small to large-size organizations, including tactical and strategic telecommunications and data networks providers in Southwest Asia, where she oversaw the operations and expansion of the largest wartime military communications network. MG (Ret) Dacier also served as the Senior Commander, Chief Information Officer, and Designated Approving Authority for the US Army Pacific command.

In addition to her expertise in the telecom/information technology domains, MG (Ret) Dacier has extensive experience at the Departmental level in strategic planning, force management and organizational design, the Army and DoD requirements and resourcing processes, and program analysis and evaluation of Army programs.

MG (Ret) Dacier graduated from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, earning an MS in National Resource Strategy and an MS from Boise State University in Instructional and Performance Technology. She served as the US Army Reserve representative on the Defense Department Advisory Committee for Women In The Services (DACOWITS). She retired from the Army as a Major General, and is a veteran of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Glenn Robert Yokum

Member since 2010

Yokum, of Barstow, served as a welding instructor for the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools from 1981 to 1987. He was superintendent at Iron Horse Welding from 1985 to 1986, welding instructor for the California Youth Authority from 1984 to 1985 and welder maintenance for Kaiser Steel from 1965 to 1983. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1950 to 1952, was a corporal in the active U.S. Army Reserves from 1949 to 1950 and an infantry soldier in the U.S. Army from 1948 to 1949.

Yokum started out in the military as a PFC, having enlisted in the Army. He attended OCS at the rank of Staff Sgt, and then received his commission, as a second Lt. He is jump trained and qualified. He volunteered to go to Korea as a 2nd Lt and assigned as an infantry platoon leader. He was only in country three days and found himself in charge of a platoon during the battle at Pork Chop Hill. Yokum's experiences at Pork Chop Hill are well documented in several non-fiction publications on Pork Chop Hill. He was awarded the **Silver Star for Bravery and Valor** at Pork Chop Hill after having been in country only 6 days. He was later awarded the **Bronze Star for Valor** as well as the **Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB)**.